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A SHORT
ACCOUNT

OF

French Cruelties :

In a Letter from Heidelburgh,

June 17. 1689.

Licentia, July the 11. 1689.

They that Arrive here with the hazard of their Lives, coming from the Cities laid in Ashes by the *French* in the *Palatinate*, (for no Body is allowed the Liberty to pass the *Rhine*, towards the Empire) want Tongues to give an Account of the Confusion and Desolations in those Parts, not to be paralleled by any Example of pass'd Ages. Great Numbers of People are ravish'd from their Habitations and their Country; whom they chain together two and two, to transplant them into *France*; where they are to be disposed of in the utmost Confines of that Kingdom toward the *Pyrenæans*; like another Captivity of *Babylon*, where the Woods and Mountains Eccho nothing but the moans and sad Lamentations of the Women, and Innocent Children. Great Numbers of them strew the Path High-ways with their dead Carcasses; of which the greatest Part not long since, Lived at Ease, and in full Plenty. Some therefore that through despair, lay Violent Hands upon themselves;

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and others suffer themselves to be overwhelmed with Grief, as having before their Eyes the lively representation of what they are still to suffer; and beg of their Hangmen as well as their Grants, in pity and commiseration, to Ease them of their miserable Lives; either by the points of their Swords, or the kindness of a Mu'quet-Bullet. And that which deserves to be seriously considered is this, that in the midst of this unheard of Barbarism, the number of the wicked Executioners of the cruel Commands of Sovereign Tyranny is very small; there being hardly a Souldier, notwithstanding the little Esteem or Knowledge they have of what belongs to Honour, that will defile his Hands in those dismal Executions: Inasmuch, that the City of *wormes* had not so soon run the hazard of being utterly Ruin'd, if that infamous Officer (of whom they report a most Execrable piece of Impiety; that he should say, *That if the King of France his Master, should Command him to burn G — in Heaven, he would do it, if it lay in his power*) had not arrived with his band of Incendiaries to Fire that Imperial City: The French Peasants are come with a great Number of Carts and Waggones to carry away the Spoils of that City; and whatever they cannot carry away, that they destroy and reduce to nothing; so that the poor Inhabitants have nothing left them but their miserable Lives. These French Firebrands, have reduced to Ashes in the Imperial City of *Spire*, One and Twenty *Catholick* Churches, where they daily offered the Body of Jesus Christ to the Eternal Father; and Seven Cloysters belonging as well to the One, as to the other Sex. And in *worms*, these impious and outrageous Caitiffs have destroyed no less than Eighteen Churches of the same Religion, and several Convents; and thus they have Profan'd whatever is accounted most Sacred by their own Religion. In the most Places, they have not scrupled to Exercise their Blasphemous Rage upon the Figures and Statues of the Crucified God, to the great Scandal even of those of the contrary Religion, and amazing Terrour of the Catholicks; and by a particular Prophanation, they melted the Bells, tho' Blessed and Christened, to make Cannon; according to the usual practice of *Turks* and *Infidels*. The Nuns and Consecrated Virgins could not escape their being Desflour'd. All the Religious Orders have felt the Violences of their Fury, being constrained to quit their Convents, and to retire where they could, by Vertue of Letters of Obedience, with which the French Priests furnished them. All the World is perswaded that these unheard of Outrages will at length constrain our Holy Father the Pope, to put the French King out of the Pale of the Church,

to take from him the Title of *Most Christian*; and to discharge all his Subjects of the Oath of Allegiance, which they owe him; which in all probability would soon occasion a total Revolt of *France*; in regard these horrible Outrages make such an Impression upon the *French*, whose Hearts as yet are not altogether hardened, like that of *Pharaoh*; that both Souldiers and Officers Desert the Service in Troops on every side; Protesting that whole Battalions and Squadrons will render themselves so soon as the *German* Armies shall have pass'd the *Rhine*. The *French* alludge, for the only reason of their destroying so many fertile Countries, laden with plentiful Harvests, that it is to hinder the March of the said Armies, and to deprive them of all manner of Subsistence, which they have executed with so much Exactness, that there is nothing left for the People to live upon; so that the *French* Troops begin to feel the Want themselves which they have occasioned others to suffer; in so much, that they can never subsist upon the Banks of the *Rhine*, unless they send for Provisions from their own far distant Magazines: And then for their tearing so many innocent People from their Native Habitations, to carry them Captive into *France*; They think they give a very good Reason, in saying, That they carry away those People to terrifie the *Germans*, by Threats of using them after the same manner as they would do the *French*, if once they should reduce them under their Obedience. And lastly. That they destroy the Cities, Towns and Villages, to the end, they may find the less Resistance, if afterwards, upon the Retreat of the *Germans*, they should think fit to return toward the *Rhine*. This dreadful Desolation of the *Palatinate*, has made a strong Impression in the Hearts of the Inhabitants of *Alsatia*, *Burgundy*, *Lorain*, *Montbeillard*, *Deuxponts*, and other Neighbouring Parts, not only because they are Apprehensive of the same Destruction, but because they see the Country already laid bare of its Fruits, which they have carryed already into their Magazines: Before the Doors of which, the poor Country People are daily to be seen with their Famish'd Children, begging for a small Pittance of their own Corn, to support their languishing Lives.

To these Fatal Consequences of the War, they add, That the Letters just now arrived from *Sturgard*, inform them, That *Strasburgh*, *Schlestadt*, *Hagenau*, *Landau*, and other Cities, are suddenly like to undergoe the same Fate as *Wormes*, *Spire*, and *Oppentreimes*. His Highness, the Elector of *Bavaria*, was constrain'd to behold from his Camp, the City of *Spire* reduced to Ashes, not a little troubl'd that the *Rhine* hinder'd

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hinder'd him from attempting it's Relief: And now he wishes he could but approach the Enemy, to gratify his Desire of Revenge. He is Fortifying *Stolhove*, and his Electoral Highness has invited all the Neighbouring States to concur with him to the utmost of their Power, to perfect the Work: The *French* having a Design to hinder him, have cross'd the *Rhine* with Eight Thousand Men at *Fort Lewis*. But the Prince of *Savoy* is march'd with a Considerable Detachment to drive them back again; of which we expect the Success.

From the Camp of the Allies before Keyserwaert,
June, 26. 1689.

HIS Electoral Highness of *Brandenburgh* being arriv'd before this Town, they redoubl'd their Onsets in such a manner, that the *Sieur de la Marloniere*, found himself constrain'd in less than three days to capitulate: He has surrendred this Place to the Allies, and is gone out with the *French* that were there in Garrison, with only Wands in their Hands. But the Souldiers of other Nations have taken Arms again among the Allies.

Or There is this Day Published an Account of what the Subduing of the Rebellion of Ireland, begun the 23d. of October, 1641. hath Cost; and what Damage the Protestants there have sustained thereby, and what Lands have been Forfeited and Disposed of to Adventurers, Souldiers, and other English, and what to the Irish: Abstracted out of the Accounts of Moneys in the Exchequer, during such time as any regular Accounts were made up, and by probable and rational Estimates, for the time in which no Accounts were kept, by reason of the General Rebellion and Confusion, and out of the Surveys, Decrees and Settlements, made by His Majesties Commissioners, for Executing the Acts of Settlement and Explanation in Ireland.

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